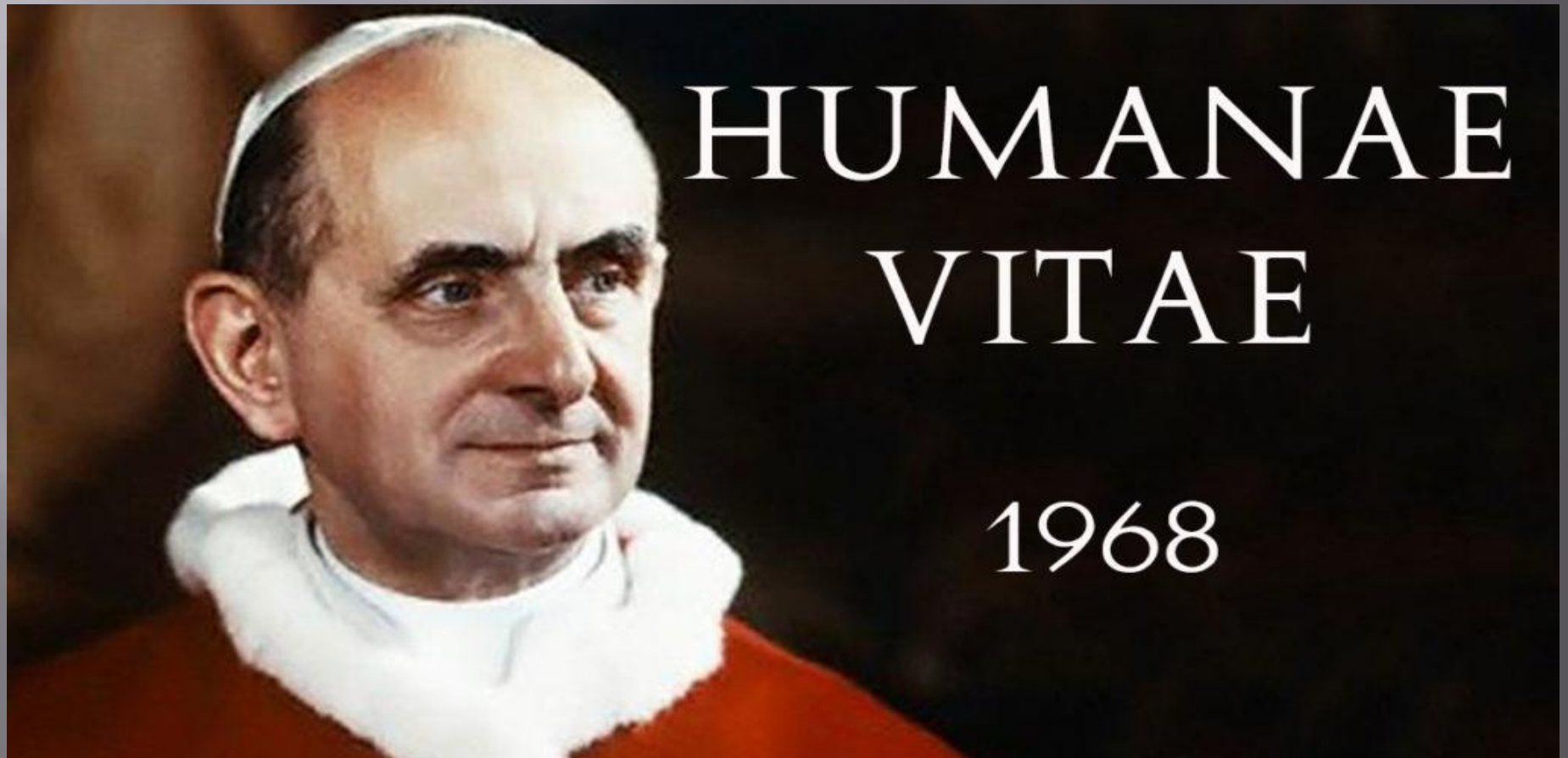


HUMANAE VITAE AT 50: A GENERATION LATER

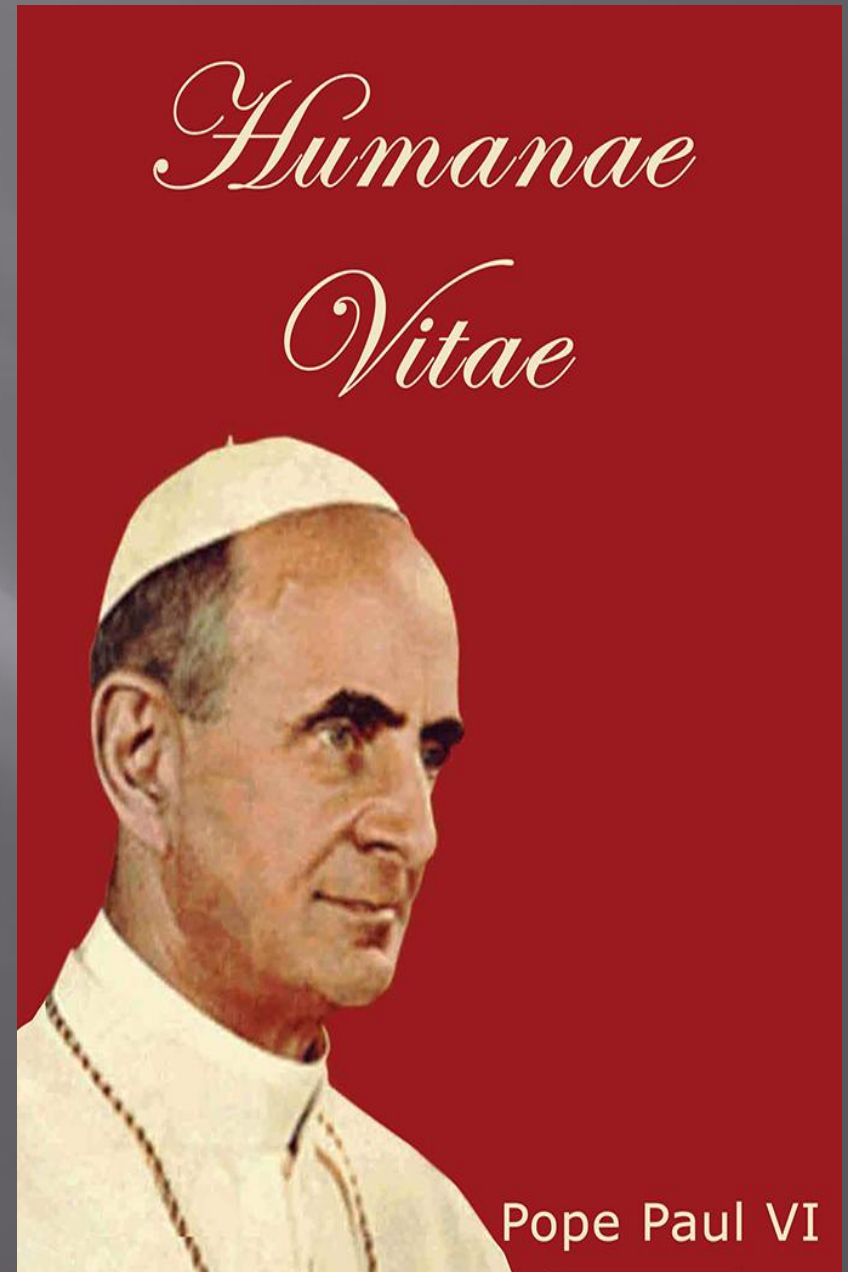


Humanae Vitae

- ▣ is an Encyclical
(a letter written to the
Church from the Pope)

- ▣ Promulgated on
25th July 1968

- ▣ English title :
Of Human Life



1960

The Evolution of Birth Control



1960

The first
birth-control pill
is approved for
use by the FDA.

Report on the Fourth Session of the Commission Set Up by the Holy See to Study the Problems of Population, Family, and Birth-rate Rome — 25–28 March 1965

- This document reports on the *first* session of the Commission *after* it was expanded and given a broader mandate by Pope Paul VI on June 23, 1964. Dr. John R. Cavanagh, a Washington, D.C., psychiatrist, who was appointed (as Ford also was) when the Commission was expanded, received this **English-language** copy of the official report from the Rev. Henri de Riedmatten, O.P., Secretary General of the Commission, and gave it to Grisez. The document bears marks Cavanagh made as he worked through it.
- De Riedmatten says in the Report that he takes full responsibility for it and acknowledges that most members of the Commission were given no opportunity to check it out. However, he also mentions that he received the help of a dozen members of the group, who worked over and discussed the report with him immediately after the session ended.
- Cavanagh, who had published a book on marriage in which he had faithfully adhered to the Church's moral teachings, told Grisez that he and most of the other laypeople who participated in the session had been surprised by the views of the theologians who favored change. Hearing those views, almost all the non-theologians began to think, for the first time in their lives, that contraception might, after all, be — or be about to become — morally permissible.

Humanae Vitae, n.14

“It is a serious error to think that a whole married life of otherwise normal relations can justify sexual intercourse which is deliberately contraceptive and so intrinsically wrong”.

Marriage is the union of the loving couple with a loving God, in which a new person may be created; God completes this creation by adding the soul.



According to Pope Paul VI:

- ▣ Love is total – it is a personal gift; the couple generously share everything; nothing is for their own convenience; the spouse who really loves is not concerned about receiving; loves the other for one's own sake.
- ▣ It follows that there can be no other 'giving' than one's complete self.

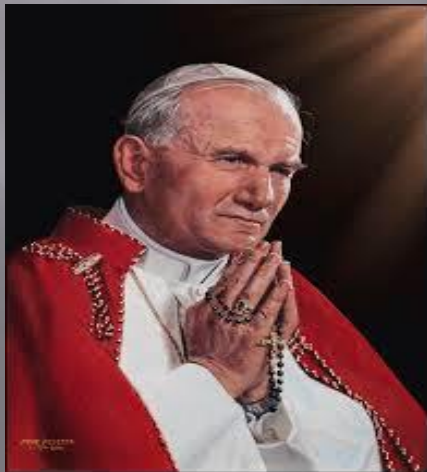
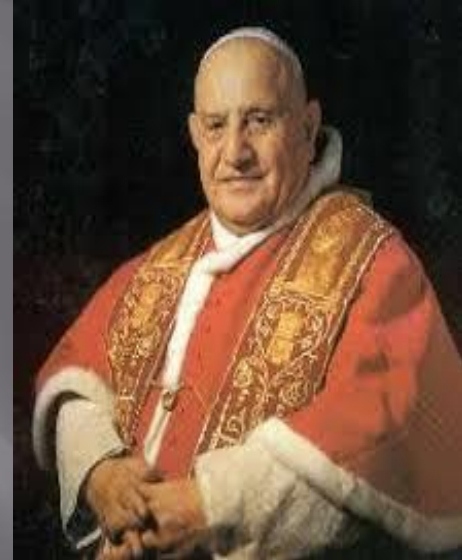
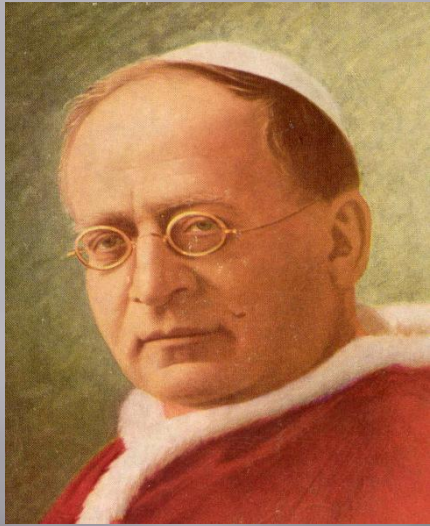
There is more to HV than was publicized by the media

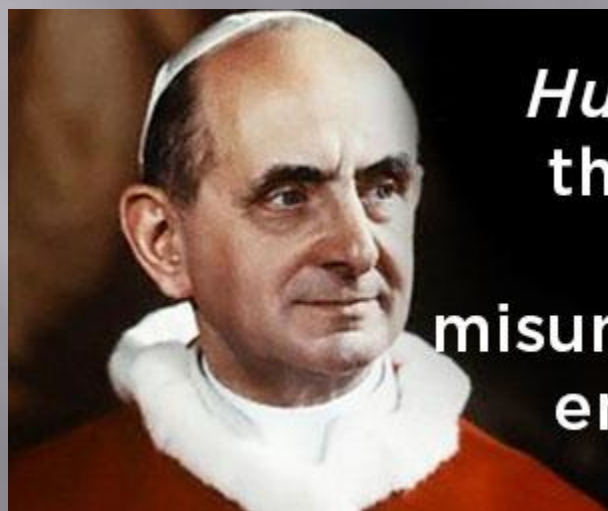
- ▣ A much wider vista of moral teaching
- ▣ Preserving the whole moral law of marriage
- ▣ Spouses becoming 'responsible parents'
- ▣ Creating a full awareness of a couple's moral obligations towards God, themselves, their children and society at large

Prophecies of Humanae Vitae, n.17

- ▣ Contraception leads to marital infidelity
- ▣ General lowering of moral standards
- ▣ No reverence for the woman
- ▣ Abuse of power by public authorities
- ▣ Unlimited dominion of man over his own body

The views of Paul VI reflect the teachings of his predecessors and his successors





Humanae Vitae is both one of the most important, and also one of the most opposed, misunderstood, and least taught encyclicals in Church history.